

receiving a request for information from said software application via said network, said request comprising said associated password;
 authenticating said password;
 providing said information to said software application via said network while said associated password is valid; and
 invalidating said password coincident with an invalidation event.

N.E.
 13. A method according to claim 12 wherein said invalidating step comprises invalidating said password at a predetermined time.

14. A method according to claim 12 wherein said invalidating step comprises invalidating said password after a predetermined elapsed time from when said request was received.

15. A method according to claim 12 wherein said invalidating step comprises invalidating said password upon the detection of a loss of communication with said client.

16. A method according to claim 12 wherein said providing step comprises providing said software application in the form of an applet.

17. A method according to claim 12 wherein said providing step comprises providing said password assembled with said software application.

18. A method according to claim 12 wherein said providing step comprises generating said password at a server upon receiving said request at said server.

27. A network-based software authentication system comprising:
 a server comprising:

a password generator;
 password validation apparatus;
 a restricted-access storage area;
 a software application; and
 invalidation apparatus;

wherein said server is operative to:

- a) cause said password generator to generate a password;
- b) provide said software application with said password to a client via a network;
- c) received a request for information from said software application via said network, said request comprising said associated password;
- d) authenticate said password using said password validation apparatus;
- e) provide said information to said software application via said network while said associated password is valid; and
- f) invalidate said password using said invalidation apparatus coincident with an invalidation event.

28. A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event comprises the arrival of a predetermined time.

29. A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event comprises the elapsing of a predetermined elapsed time from when said request was received.

30. A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event comprises the detection of a loss of communication with said client.

31. A system according to claim 31 wherein said software application comprises an applet.

32. A system according to claim 27 wherein said password is assembled with said software application.

33. A system according to claim 27 wherein said password is generated at said server upon receiving said request at said server.